

Key Words

Watershed - a geographic area from which water, sediments and dissolved minerals, drains into a particular body of water, like a stream, creek, reservoir or bay.

Aquatic life - plants, animals and microorganisms that spend all or part of their life in water.

Biodiversity - the variety of species of plants and animals that live in an area.

Riparian - the woody area along a waterway.

Wetlands – an area that can be freshwater, brackish water or marine water that is wet for a portion or growing season and has the presence of wetland plants and wetland soil. Marshes, swamps, bogs and mangroves are names for some kind of wetlands.

Marsh- an area of a low-lying wetland.

Habitat - the arrangement of food, water, shelter and space to suit an animals needs.

Filtration - the process of passing a liquid or gas through a porous mass, membrane, soil.

Aquifers - an underground layer of rock or soil that is saturated with usable water.

Groundwater- water that infiltrates in the earth and is stored in the soil and rocks below the earth's surface.

Channelization – the process of carving a route.

Pollutants – a contaminant that causes a change in the physical, biological or chemical condition of air, water or land that is harmful.

Toxic – something that is poisonous or harmful.

Nitrates – contains NO₃ –sources include animal wastes and fertilizers.

Phosphates - used in fertilizers and detergents, act as nutrient pollutants causing overgrowth of aquatic plants

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Sediments - rocks, soil

Urban runoff - is rain or other water that passes through our streets, driveways and developed areas picking up litter, debris and pollutants, carrying them into our storm drains and eventually into our creeks and to the bay.

Point source pollutants – pollutants that can be traced back to the source.

Non-source pollutants - pollutants that cannot be traced back to the source.

Heavy Metals- lead, zinc, copper, chromium, cadmium, arsenic, mercury, nickel **These are the #1 pollutant in urban runoff.**

Oil and Grease – toxic to fish and other aquatic life.

Pesticides – ex: diazinon (kills ants, bugs, and pests)

Fertilizers – causes excessive algae growth in water, fish and other aquatic organisms compete for oxygen.

Pathogens-bacteria found in animal and human waste-very high concentrations in storm runoff.